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AUG 28 2006

Serial No. 10/657,731
60130-1883; 02MRA0333**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ubelein et al. (6,515,377), Amano (6,557,910) and Mittermeier et al. (2001/0045775). The Examiner admits that Ubelein does not disclose operating a latch mechanism motor to a security locking state upon fault detection. The Examiner states that Amano teaches a latch mechanism motor for controlling the lock/unlock of a vehicle door, and Mittermeier teaches an emergency locking system that locks vehicle doors in emergency situations upon actuation of a regulator, and it would be obvious to employ these features in Ubelein. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is not obvious because none of the references individually or together disclose, suggest or teach a vehicle door latch control system including a door controller with door controller logic that detects a fault and that reassigns a further function an occupant-operable regulator, wherein the further function is control of a latch mechanism motor upon detection of the fault as claimed. Ubelein does not teach, suggest or disclose fault detection for the reasons set forth above. Amano discloses a door lock drive unit using one motor 4 to conduct both the unlatch function and the closing function. However, Amano does not disclose that an occupant-operable regulator that controls the one motor 4. Mittermeier discloses "a lock-unlock switch" (a central locking regulator) that is used to lock doors and close windows in an emergency situation. The same lock-unlock switch is used to lock the doors in both emergency and non-emergency situations. The lock-unlock switch is not reassigned to allow security locking of the latch mechanism in an emergency situation because lock-unlock switch *always* allows security locking of the latch mechanism. In the claimed invention, when a fault is detected, control of the latch mechanism is reassigned to the occupant-operable regulator, reassigning the security locking function to the operator. None of the references individually or together disclose, suggest or teach a vehicle door latch control system including a door controller with door controller logic that reassigns control of a latch mechanism motor to an occupant-operable regulator upon detection of a fault as claimed. Therefore, the references taken together do not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention.

Additionally, there is also no motivation to combine Ubelein and Mittermeier because these references relate to different situations. Ubelein discloses detecting a fault and does not relate to handling an emergency situation. Mittermeier discloses an emergency locking situation.

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During an emergency locking mode in an emergency situation, an obstruction safety interlock is active. Mittermeier does not relate to a fault detection system. Ubelein and Mittermeier teach difference methods of handling an emergency situation. The references relate to different situations, and therefore one skilled in the art would not consider Mittermeier when considering Ubelein.

Thus, claims 1, 4-9 and 12-15 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this Request for Reconsideration and Amendment After Final is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300 on August 28, 2006.


Amy M. Spaulding